

LISKEARD  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



**THE ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**  
**OF HEALTH**

For the Year 1958

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P. J. FOX, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.





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**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Liskeard.**

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tregarthen and Gentlemen,

During the year 1958 there was no change in the estimated population of No. 7 Health Area, although there were minor changes in the populations of five of the six County Districts in the Area. There were small increases in the estimated populations of Torpoint Urban District and Looe Urban District, small decreases in those of St. Germans Rural District, Liskeard Rural District and Saltash Municipal Borough, whilst that of Liskeard Municipal Borough was unchanged. The corrected birth rate of 14.9 per 1000 was below the national figure of 16.4 per 1000. There was an increase in the number of still births and the rate per 1000 total births rose to 29.0 as compared with 17.1 in 1957.

The corrected death rate at 12.1 per 1000 of population was fractionally below the 1957 rate but again exceeded the national figure of 11.5. The total number of deaths at 684 exceeded the total of live births by 14, which is I believe due to the higher proportion of older people resident in this part of Cornwall. Of the various groups of diseases causing death those affecting the heart were most prevalent, with cancers of various kinds again holding second place. Of the defined forms of cancer that of the lung and windpipe was most numerous, with cancer of the stomach not far behind in order of prevalence as a cause of death. The mortality rate for lung cancer in this Health Area was only fractionally below that for the country as a whole, and was appreciably higher than that for the county of Cornwall. There was a small increase from 12 in 1957 to 15 in 1958 in deaths of infants under one year of age, but the infant mortality rate for the Area was still slightly below the rate for England and Wales. As is usual nowadays the bulk of infant mortality is in fact neo-natal mortality i.e. occurring in the first four weeks of life, and during 1958 this was the case in No. 7 Health Area where 12 of the 15 infant deaths were of infants under four weeks of age.

In my annual reports of the last two or three years I have written at some length about the increase in mortality due to cancer of the lung and bronchus. There is little new to add to what has already been said although such fresh statistical evidence as comes to light from time to time continues to incriminate moderate or heavy cigarette smoking as a major cause of this form of cancer. I do not know of any new facts or theories on the causation of this fatal disease which would lead me to modify the advice I have already given on the subject. I realise that to persuade confirmed addicts of cigarettes to relinquish the habit is an almost hopeless task, and the main object of education and propaganda must be directed to dissuading young people, especially those still at school, from taking up the smoking habit. The difficulties confronting any such campaign are formidable indeed. For one thing the danger is to the adolescent remote—some 30 to 40 years distant. Then there is a lack of good example amongst those in contact with young people—parents, teachers, doctors, amongst whom the smoking habit is widespread and firmly established. Rarely has the task of reinforcing and supporting precept by good example been more difficult. Finally there is the psychology of the situation, in which everything conspires to suggest to the teenager that to smoke is an outward and visible sign of being "adult," a throwing off of the shackles of childhood, a symbol almost as meaningful as possession of the front door key.

The year 1958 was a relatively quiet one in the field of infectious disease, when the total number of cases notified was only 277, the lowest recorded in the

Area since 1952 when 234 cases were notified. The most prevalent diseases were measles with 113 cases and whooping cough with 71 cases. Of individual districts Looe Urban District with 86 cases had the highest prevalence of notifiable disease due to small outbreaks of measles, and whooping cough. The lightest incidence of notifiable disease was in Torpoint Urban District with only six cases, and Liskeard Municipal Borough with 8 cases was almost as fortunate. Of more serious types of communicable disease there were four cases of poliomyelitis one of which in an adult was unfortunately fatal. The deceased being an adult was too old to have participated in the poliomyelitis immunisation scheme. Of the other three cases one child who suffered a moderate amount of paralysis had not been immunised. The other two cases, one of whom had been immunised were mild non-paralytic forms of the disease. One mild case of diphtheria in an adult too old to have been included in the diphtheria immunisation campaign when it commenced in 1940 was notified in Torpoint Urban District.

There was some increase in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during 1958. There were 27 cases in all an increase of 6 over the 1957 total. Of these 23 were respiratory infections and four were non-respiratory infections. There were six deaths attributed to tuberculosis during the year. Whereas mortality from tuberculosis has fallen very sharply over the past ten years, and there has been some reduction in the number of new infections, the latter improvement has not been nearly so spectacular as one could have hoped or wished for. Indeed during the last 12-18 months there has been some increase in this Area in new cases discovered, and notified. In the first decade following the end of the last war it did appear that the prospects of eradicating tuberculosis were quite bright. Experience has however shown that some of our hopes and conclusions were perhaps wishful thinking, and the reduction in the amount of infection in the community, and the establishment of proper control over it will be a much slower process than was believed some years ago. I do not wish to appear a pessimist and give the impression that no further improvement is possible. I am confident that given the co-operation and understanding of the public it will be possible to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis to negligible proportions but we must not expect to reach this happy state of affairs without some delay, and without some reverses, and setbacks to our hopes from time to time.

Just over 100 years ago when what we now know as the Public Health Service had its beginnings the emphasis was on improving the appalling physical conditions in which a great many lived, since these were clearly linked with and responsible for widespread suffering, and disease, high mortality, and greatly reduced expectation of life. Although the pioneers and early workers in this field encountered many obstacles and had to fight against opposition from vested interests and apathy from those they were trying to help, the evils against which they fought were clearly defined physical entities such as unhealthy and overcrowded housing conditions, inadequate and grossly polluted water supplies and an almost total lack of sanitation. Most of these defects in man's physical environment have now been eliminated, and with the greatly reduced incidence of infectious disease, and a considerable improvement in living standard those factors menacing the physical well-being of the community have been largely removed. This decline in morbidity and mortality from communicable disease has tended to throw into sharper relief the other ills to which human flesh is heir. Not the least of these is disturbance or frank disorder of mental health the treatment of which has become a major preoccupation of the medical profession, and social workers throughout the country. The causes of mental ill-health are so numerous, and vary so much from one individual to another, that it is difficult, if not impossible to find any large scale or mass solution of them, and methods which served well in the past to deal with slum clearance, water supply, sanitation, immunisation and other public health procedures have a very limited application in the prevention of mental disability and disease, where the solution of problems must be on a much more individual basis. Even if sufficient and suitably trained



personnel can be found to probe into the probable causes of mental disorder and to give advice, and material help to sufferers, there must be a large number of cases in which little real help can be given. So many of the causes lie deeply concealed or are so disguised as to be difficult to recognise, or are so large and widespread as to be incapable of solution that one can only hope for minor improvements, such as the mere sharing of the burden of anxiety may bring about. On the face of it man's efforts to provide himself with more material security, more leisure time, and a generally higher standard of living would seem to be reasonable, and indeed laudable. For some at least it may be that increased time for leisure provides not time for physical and mental recreation but more time in which to be bored, and greater opportunity to worry, whilst the attainment and maintenance of a higher standard of living, particularly if it involves "keeping up with the Joneses," inevitably involves a more pressing sense of responsibility than the simpler life did. It is also probably true that ordinary citizens feel themselves more involved in international affairs now that methods of mass destruction are being brought to a high degree of effectiveness. The last war left us in no doubt that none of us can count on being spared the hardships and horrors of modern warfare, and I believe that this knowledge coupled with the increasing war of nerves, and international tension has some adverse effect on almost all of us. I have set out these probable causes of mental disability and ill health to show what a formidable task exists in preventing anxiety and worry of one sort or another. Fortunately there is much which can be done in the realm of more local and personal problems and in this lies the main hope of preventing mental ill-health or lessening its effect before it becomes too firmly established.

It is appropriate after dealing with mental health to pass on to a subject which is generally believed to play some part in undermining mental stability and equilibrium. In this largely rural area the question of noise is nowhere so acute or distressing as in built-up areas where industry and modern systems of transport make a constant and substantial contribution of loud, discordant and often distressing sounds to the uneasy air, the latest, and most strident villains of the piece being the large jet propelled aircraft. Whilst the human ear and its allied auditory system is amazingly tolerant of loud and discordant sounds, and serious or permanent damage to the hearing mechanism is uncommon outside very noisy industrial processes, it is clear that living in a noisy environment can cause mental fatigue and noise can be a serious detriment when it interferes with sleep or disturbs people who are ill or recuperating from illness. Whilst much has been and is being done to improve sound insulation and absorption in buildings, we are very much less critical when noise originates in the open air. Here the main source of unpleasant noise is the mechanically propelled vehicle. Not all are equally culpable, and the modern private car if well maintained and considerably used does not create much noise. The main offenders appear to me to be inadequately silenced heavy transport vehicles, sports cars and motor cycles, the latter often in the hands of young people to whom the sound of an ear-shattering exhaust note is the be-all and end-all of living. With the rapidly mounting total of vehicles using the congested roads serious consideration will have to be given to the reduction, or better the elimination of all unnecessary noise arising from traffic particularly in urban areas, and at night time. Another potent but less constant source of loud, and often disturbing sound is the modern public address system. This is now widely used to provide music at fairs and sports grounds, by business concerns to advertise their wares, by organisers of social events, by religious bodies and last but not least by candidates seeking to win votes for elections of one sort or another. Of these, the fixed installations on fair grounds, and sports grounds, provided they do not operate too late in the evening, are probably the least disturbing. On the other hand the mobile installations carried on vans, trucks and even private cars can do, by their ability to move close to dwellings in residential areas, cause considerable disturbance and annoyance to householders. It is notoriously difficult to shut out from our homes and our heads

powerfully amplified sound, and we have therefore little choice of rejecting what we do not wish to hear. However sweet the synthetic chimes of the ice-cream vendor, or deep the wisdom of the politicians impassioned pleading, there are times, and occasions when we do not want them thrust upon us willynilly. Surely there are so many other means of modern publicity on press, radio and television in which the element of choice still remains with the customer or constituent as to whether he will look or listen, that the already clamorous air around our homes can be spared this noisy modern technique of mass persuasion. I feel that the use of public address systems particularly the mobile variety should be subject to stricter control, and their use confined largely to putting across to the public information of a vital and urgent character.

The steady increase in the proportion of elderly people in the community is well known, and increasing attention is being given to examining the problems and assessing the needs of old folks, particularly those living alone. There is no doubt that if old people can be kept in the surroundings to which they are accustomed they are normally very much more happy and content, and their care and maintenance represents a very much smaller charge on rates and taxes than placing them in an institution or an old person's home. The great majority of them can and do continue to live in their own homes and if the standards of cleanliness and housecraft are not of the highest undue concern should not be felt if their living conditions do not constitute a nuisance or prove a source of annoyance or concern to their immediate neighbours. In many cases however the poor structural condition, of the house which may be too big for an old couple or a single old person to manage comfortably coupled with lack of amenities make it desirable that rehousing should be undertaken. Where old people are able-bodied, active and capable of looking after themselves the aim should be to transfer them to a small modern dwelling designed and equipped to meet the needs of the elderly. Such provision should be incorporated in new housing estates in such a way that the old people do not feel themselves shut away or segregated from the rest of the community, and can receive companionship and where necessary material help from their younger, and more active neighbours.

A certain number of elderly, because they live far beyond the normal span, or because of some acceleration in the process of ageing, become physically and/or mentally incapable of caring for themselves, and become a source of anxiety to relatives, and neighbours, and as such form the subject of complaint. Apart from dirty and insanitary habits and mode of living, the dangerous practice of throwing paraffin oil on the fire, and the use of candles or oil lamps is almost invariably referred to. If the house in question is one of a row of houses, the anxiety about the fire risk is understandable. The singed eyebrows and hair of the old person together with evidence of damage to floor coverings, furnishings and bedding by sparks, live coals, or naked flames shows that the danger is real. Where this state of affairs exists the only satisfactory solution is for the old person to enter an institution or a home where they can be properly housed, fed, and cared for. Unfortunately many—indeed most—of these difficult cases resent any attempt to help or advise them and are most reluctant to enter an institution or home. This reluctance to accept help or consent to move to a place where they can be adequately cared for stems from a variety of reasons, many of them not very sound. There is a spirit of independence which resents pressure or interference from outsiders and indeed in many cases from relatives and friends also. Coupled with this one often finds a deterioration in mental calibre and power of reasoning which enables the old person to accept a very much lower standard of living as a normal state of affairs. Finally there is a mistrust or fear of the institution or home as being nothing more than the dreaded "workhouse" of less happy days, and this fear is not easily dealt with when an otherwise excellent home is housed in buildings which were some years ago "the workhouse." I believe this latter fear is gradually dying away and being dissipated by the changed atmosphere, higher standards, of care, and the brighter and more attractive appearance of accommo-



dation at these places, whilst the purchase and conversion of large houses, and hotels for old folks homes is doing much to persuade those who can no longer care for themselves to more readily accept the accommodation which is offered them by welfare authorities.

Elderly persons are not unnaturally more prone to illness which usually confines them to bed. If they are living alone such a situation may soon result in a serious deterioration in their living conditions, and it seems to me that there should be provision for the rapid removal of the old person to hospital for treatment of the illness. Unfortunately such is the pressure on beds for old people in hospitals in the Plymouth Clinical Area that cases very frequently have to be put on a waiting list with no certainty of obtaining a bed for two to four weeks. Such a delay causes much anxiety to the family doctor, the nursing service, and to neighbours, relatives and friends of the old person, and I am often approached with a request that I expedite the admission. Unfortunately I have no power to do so and can only reiterate what must already be known to the hospital authorities concerning the unsatisfactory home conditions. I hope the Regional Hospital Board will bear constantly in mind the necessity of having available an adequate number of beds to deal with the increasing number of old people in the community.

In recent years some hardening in the attitude of local residents to the establishment of caravan and camping sites in their neighbourhood has been noticeable. Much of the opposition derives from a belief that the establishment of further sites would be detrimental to the natural amenities of the district, and injurious to existing hotel and catering business in the vicinity. As I am not qualified to express any authoritative view on these matters I do not propose to comment on them. Some opponents of caravan sites have however gone further and suggested that such sites are necessarily detrimental to the health of those who use them, and to those who live in the neighbourhood in which they are situated. Given a good lay-out, with adequate spacing of caravans and tents, an adequate and pure supply of water, and proper methods of sanitation, sewage disposal and removal of domestic refuse, I know of no reason why any site should be a menace to the health of those who choose to live there, or to those local inhabitants in the vicinity. Although I personally do not favour the caravan, however well equipped or sited, as a place of permanent residence, I know of no evidence showing it to be an unhealthy way of life. Thus the well laid out site with good services offers no target for criticism on grounds of health.

We in the public health world are more perturbed by conditions obtaining on some of the older sites licensed before 1939 and on which it is difficult or impossible to enforce the provision of adequate services, and on sites which under existing legislation may be brought into use for a restricted period at the height of the holiday season. As I referred at some length to this aspect of the matter in my 1957 report, I shall not comment further at this.

An aspect of holiday making not unconnected with camping sites came to notice during 1958, and was the subject of complaint. I refer to the use of roadside verges and lay-bys by people who sleep in their cars. This not very desirable practice has been on the increase in recent years and during the peak holiday weeks of 1958 it reached considerable proportions in this part of Cornwall. Whilst nobody wishes to deny holiday makers the right to spend the nights of their holiday in this uncomfortable way if they so choose, the fouling of the ground in the vicinity by human excrement is something which cannot be overlooked. Since not all roadside verges are suitable for parking on, those parts which are tend to be heavily and continuously used for some weeks during July and August. We have for some years known of the problem created by litter left by motorists using roadside verges for picnicing, and efforts to cope with this showing some results. The unsatisfactory state of affairs arising when people in increasing numbers choose or are compelled to spend their nights by the side of the road is more difficult to deal with, and it may well be that such people will have to be

persuaded or compelled to spend their nights on sites where some necessary sanitary services can be provided.

The only part of the Health Area in which up to now water supplies have been generally unsatisfactory and a cause for some concern has been the Liskeard Rural District. This situation has been undergoing a rapid improvement, particularly in the past two or three years, and within the next twelve months a large proportion of the residents in the Liskeard Rural District will have available an adequate supply of good quality water. When this position has been reached almost the whole of south east Cornwall will have good water supply arrangements.

In contrast with water supply progress in sewerage and sewage disposal has been much slower, and much still remains to be done. Now that Callington is provided with an effective sewage disposal system, the only sizeable inland town without proper means of dealing with sewage is the Borough of Liskeard. In this case all the engineering proposals for the provision of sewage disposal have been submitted to the Ministry of housing and Local Government from whom the next move in the matter is shortly expected. At Looe the question of pollution of the river and the foreshore adjacent to the river mouth by crude sewage from the town has continued to cause concern to the Urban District Council, and outline schemes for improved methods of disposal have been prepared by Consulting Engineers and are under active consideration by the Council. Although some progress was made during the year in providing sewage disposal schemes in the larger villages in the two Rural Districts many are still without adequate means for disposing of sewage. The arrival of more dependable water supplies in almost all parts of the Liskeard Rural District will undoubtedly increase the volume of domestic sewage to be disposed of and will aggravate nuisances which already exist in the neighbourhood of many villages and hamlets. In a world guided by Utopian principles I have no doubt that schemes for providing good supplies of water and those for disposing of waste matter adequately would proceed side by side. In our less, perfect society because of resources in materials, and finance would find it difficult to sustain simultaneous progress on both these fronts, schemes for water supply usually take precedence. I hope that the necessary supporting schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal will not be too long delayed.

In concluding this general preface I should like to express my sincere thanks to those with whom I have worked during 1958 for their help and kindness to me at all times

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tregarthen and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. Fox,

Medical Officer of Health.



## RURAL DISTRICT OF LISKEARD

### Public Health Committee

COUNCILLOR J. D. BARNEOUT, *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR W. H. BESWETHERICK, *Vice-Chairman*

together with 27 other Members of the Council.

### Housing Committee

COUNCILLOR S. BALL, C.C., *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR R. S. BARRETT, *Vice-Chairman*

together with 26 other Members of the Council.

### Health Officers of the Authority

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Health Area Office, West Street, Liskeard, Telephone: Liskeard 3373

G. ROGERS, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., *Chief Public Health Inspector*

*and Surveyor.*

G. M. LAWRY, M.A.P.H.I., A.I. Hsg. *Public Health Inspector*

G. O. COWLING, *Assistant Surveyor,*

Council Offices, Luxstowe House, Liskeard, Telephone: Liskeard 2379

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Area of Rural District	104,803 acres.
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	13,870
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,955
Rateable Value	£87,134
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£372

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### Vital Statistics for 1958

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	91	102	193
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Births rate per 1000 of population	15.7	14.9	16.4
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Still Births	3	2	5
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	25.3	29.0	21.6
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Deaths	94	71	165
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Death rate per 1000 of population	10.2	12.1	11.7
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Deaths of infants under one year of age	4	1	5
Liskeard R.D. Health Area No. 7 England & Wales			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	25.9	22.4	22.5
Maternal Deaths	None registered		

### Principal Causes of Death at all Ages

Heart disease	...	...	...	...	60
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke")					26
Cancer (all sites)	...	...	...	...	19
Respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	9
Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	7
Accidents	...	...	...	...	4
Genito-urinary disease	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3

### Average Age at Death

Males	Females
68	73

There was no change in any of the above figures or rates during 1958 of sufficient magnitude to call for any special comment. Of the 165 persons who died during the year, 49% had reached the age of 75 years or over at the time of death.

**Infectious Disease.** During 1958 the total number of cases of infectious disease notified was 50, the lowest annual total since 1952. The only diseases which contributed to this small total in any noticeable degree were whooping cough and measles. Of the more serious types of notifiable disease, there were two cases of poliomyelitis, one of which in a 34 year old female was unfortunately fatal. There were also two cases of acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain stem and spinal cord) following minor non-notifiable forms of infectious disease. Here again one of these cases had a fatal outcome the person affected being a nine year old boy who had chicken-pox. Fortunately this post-infectious encephalitis or encephalomyelitis which may follow attacks of less serious diseases such as measles, chickenpox or German measles is extremely rare.

The following details are actual numbers and case rates of notifiable disease occurring during 1958 :

Disease	Cases	Rates per 1,000 of population	
		Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
Whooping cough ..	22	1.59	1.39
Measles ..	21	1.51	2.21
Pneumonia ...	2	0.14	0.72
Poliomyelitis ...	2	0.14	0.08
Encephalitis ...	2	0.14	0.04
		Rate per 1000 live births	
Opthalmia neonatorum	1	5.18	1.49

**Tuberculosis.** During 1958 five new cases of tuberculosis, all respiratory infections were notified. One of these affected was a pre-school child, the remaining four being young adults. There were three deaths from tuberculosis during the year.



The following are details of new cases, deaths, case rates and mortality rates during 1958 :—

Age Group	New Cases		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—
15—45	2	2	—	—
45—65	—	—	1	1
65 and over	—	—	1	—
Totals	3	2	2	1

		Rate per 1000 of population	
		Liskeard R.D.	Health Area No. 7
New cases	0.36	0.53	
All known cases	4.97	6.16	
Deaths	0.22	0.12	

At the end of the year there were 62 known cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and seven known cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis residing in the Rural District.

**National Assistance Act, 1948.** No action under Section 47 of this Act was called for during 1958.

**Water Supply.** During the year good progress was made in those parts of the Councils Scheme to bring piped water to that part of the Rural District to the north and east of the main storage reservoirs at St. Cleer. When these are completed the only part of the District lacking good supplies will be that part lying to the south-east of St. Cleer largely in the parish of Menheniot. Although the Council is anxious to extend the benefits of the scheme to this parish, consideration of work in this area has had to be postponed until a decision is reached by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the final constitution of water undertakings, in South-East Cornwall. As the present position in many parts of this parish, notably the hamlet of Pengover, is unsatisfactory, I hope it will not be too long before the benefits of adequate supplies of pure water can be extended to this part of the Rural District.

**Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.** The picture here is not nearly so bright as that of water supply, and it will be many years before we can feel satisfied with arrangements in the many villages and hamlets throughout the Rural District. Nevertheless some progress was made in 1958 when approval to begin work on the scheme for Dobwalls was received, and by the end of the year a substantial amount of work had been carried out. It also appeared likely that approval for the Menheniot scheme would be forthcoming early in 1959. With the rapid extension of water supplies it seems likely that serious problems may shortly arise in larger villages where up to now shortage of water has limited the extent of nuisance arising from crude sewage outfalls. The Chief Public Health Inspector and I feel especially concerned about the large village of Pensilva where a large scheme will be necessary to deal with the population of 1,000 persons. Not very far away the smaller village of Common Moor presents a comparable problem—smaller in scale but perhaps more difficult of solution as the village lies in something of a hollow with a high ground-water level. In addition to these two outstanding examples there are many smaller villages and hamlets where the position is far from satisfactory. Under legislation introduced over the last 6—8 years it has been possible for

owners to obtain financial assistance to improve and modernise old dwellings. The great majority of such improvements have included the provision of sinks, bathrooms and water carriage sanitation. In most parts of the Rural District since no sewers are available, disposal of house drainage to septic tanks has been necessary. Theoretically the septic tank if properly designed and of adequate size should function for very long periods without attention. In practice however, it is found that these installations require attention at regular and fairly frequent intervals when the contents have to be removed by a special mobile emptying machine. The disposal of the septic and very offensive material removed from septic tanks is beginning to prove quite difficult. It cannot be dumped into a sewer served by the conventional treatment plant as it would upset the working of the plant. It can be disposed of into a sewer outfall leading to the open sea, but apart from the long haulage involved in many cases, there may be objections from residents in the vicinity of the unloading point. It can also be disposed of at household refuse tips provided that these are fairly well removed from dwelling houses. Probably the most satisfactory way of disposing of the material is to spread it thinly over land and immediately plough it in below the surface. Understandably owners of land are reluctant or unwilling to have this material on their land and this method of disposal can seldom be used.

**Food.** As in previous years attention was concentrated on premises and equipment to ensure that those engaged in handling food had reasonable facilities for doing so hygienically. In general owners and operators of catering establishments and food shops were co-operative in implementing the recommendations made to them.

**Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.** No difficulties in the administration of these Acts were experienced during 1958.

**Report of Chief Public Health Inspector.** This report by Mr. G. Rogers follows. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to Mr. Rogers and his assistants Mr. Lawry and Mr. Cowling my gratitude for the help given during the year.



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

**Water Supply.** The bulk supply of water from the South East Cornwall Water Board for the villages of Rilla Mill, Maders, Hessenford, Widegates, Widlake, No Mans Land and Great Tree was adequate for all needs throughout the year. The booster pump to raise water from Widlake to Lydcott reservoir was not put into use until about the middle of June, when it was adjusted to operate for a few hours a day.

**Distribution Mains—Southern Area.** Following the opening of the Liskeard and District Water Board's new intake works and treatment plant in October, 1957, there was adequate supply of water for all consumers in the Southern Area. More connections were made to the branch mains for supplies to private houses and farms, and it is anticipated that applications will continue to be made for very many more premises in the future months. By the end of the year, the consumption had reached 131,000 gallons per day, but this is far short of the maximum demand expected.

**Northern Area.** Excellent progress was made during 1958 in this section. No. 5A, and the whole of the mains to serve Higher Tremar Coombe, Common Moor, Darite, Crowsnest and Minions were finished. The new reservoir on St. Cleer Downs, above the village, and the one at Crowsnest were completed, tested, and found to be sound and completely watertight.

The electric pumps at the Liskeard and District Water Board works were operated to fill the St. Cleer reservoir, and arrangements were made to supply the village of St. Cleer from the source, thus dispensing with the village pumping station—Windmill and electric pump.

The Crows Nest pumping station was in course of erection but there was some delay in its completion due to non-delivery of certain pipe fittings.

By the end of December, the Caradon reservoir situated at 1070 above ordnance datum was completed, and was, in fact, ready to take water from the Crowsnest water reservoir as soon as the pumps were installed.

A considerable amount of pipe laying had been carried out in 5B, and mains to serve the whole of Pensilva, St. Ive, Keason, and Hattwood were completed by the end of the year. The main from the Caradon reservoir to Tokenbury corner had also been laid, and was ready for testing. The line from Tokenbury to Upton Cross was commenced at the end of December. Certain gaps in the pipelines had to be left where special fittings were required, but which had not arrived. It is confidently expected that water will be available for the Pensilva and Upton Cross areas before the summer of 1959.

**St. Neot.** Normal maintenance of this village system was made during the year, and the supply was adequate for all purposes.

**St. Cleer.** As mentioned earlier in this report, the village pumping system was closed, and the supply was by the new plant.

**Menheniot.** The booster pump at the source of Trewint required considerable attention throughout 1958, and it was regretted that there were many interruptions to the supply in the village. The storage tank is quite small, and if the pump is out of action for a few hours, the village is without water. On one occasion, the windings of the motor burnt out, and a new one had to be acquired from the makers. This did cause the consumers some considerable inconvenience,

in spite of the fact that the new pump was sent from the works immediately. A spare pump is now kept in the store for emergency use.

During the year, the branch main from Church Gate to Minehead Cottages was renewed and 236 yards of 3" cast iron pipes were laid. House connections were removed from the old main, and connected to the new, resulting in a considerable increase in pressure and flow.

**Polperro.** The supply to Polperro continued to be from the source at Trenderway, and there was no need to supplement it from the new branch main. The high levels, however, were served by this new main, and included in the areas of Menadue, Polkeeves, Killigarth, and Brent Field. This, of course, reduced the demand on the Trenderway source, and was to some extent responsible for there being no shortage at Polperro.

At Landaviddy Lane, there was an inadequate supply during the summer months, largely, if not entirely due to severe encrustation of a private water main. It was decided to improve the supply both in volume and pressure by extending the public main from Jac-na Park to Landaviddy cottages.

The branch main from Crumplehorne to HillsvieW gave trouble in September last, and it was found that it was necessary to renew it completely. Householders were without water whilst the work was in hand, but when the line was complete, there was a very much improved supply.

**Seaton.** Supply adequate for the consumers drawing from the public mains.

**Warleggan.** This scheme was carried out during 1958, and although not for use by the summer, was available by December. There was some delay, due to faulty pipe joints which when tightened, withstood the required test. Both electrically operated pumps were in use, and arrangements were made to use them on alternate weeks.

**Other Villages with Public Wells.** No shortage of water was reported during 1958, although the quality of most public wells is suspect.

**Farm Water Supplies.** Grants are available from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to enable water supplies to be laid on to farms including land, buildings and houses. Before the Ministry agrees to the grant, the approval of the local authority has to be obtained for the use of the water for domestic purposes. The sources of supply consist mainly of land springs and sometimes wells. When an application for approval is made, I arrange for the source to be inspected, and samples of the water taken. Subject to the reports being satisfactory, the applicant is notified of the details of protection works which have to be carried out. During the year, seven such applications were received, and in each case the source was inspected and samples taken. The scheme is an excellent one for not only does it achieve a water supply for agricultural purposes but at the same time it enables a piped supply to be made available to the farm house and workers cottage.

**Water Supply for Domestic purposes.** With the provision of mains water throughout a large section of the rural district, the Council has a duty to enforce the provisions of Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by the Water Act of 1945. This requires the owners of houses to connect them to mains and provide a supply of water in pipes in the house.

During the past year a considerable amount of time has had to be spent on this



work, and it is gratifying that considerable success has been met. Nevertheless, much remains to be done, and this work will undoubtedly remain a major task for some time, particularly as the mains pass through sparsely populated areas, as well as the villages, with the result that consideration will have to be given to supplying isolated cottages which are on the route of the mains.

The Council resolved to close public pumps in the various villages after giving adequate notice. This, in itself, will have its effect in forcing owners of cottages to connect to the mains.

Many of these wells are of doubtful quality and the quicker they can be put out of use the better it will be, from the public health aspect. An obstacle in some cases, has been the existence of small groups of houses which are scheduled for slum clearance, in which cases it would not be equitable to require owners to incur expenditure on water services. In these limited instances the only answer will be to provide public standpipes until the houses concerned are dealt with under the Housing Acts.

The enforcement of Section 138 of the Public Health Act is very much restricted by the fact that an owner cannot be required to pay more than £20 on the provision of water supply to any house. When one compares the value of £20 in 1936 with that in 1958, the ridiculous position in which we find ourselves can be appreciated. This is a problem which must be a great obstacle in the provision of piped water supplies in rural districts all over the country, and one cannot understand why this figure has not been amended. It is to be hoped that the position may be rectified in the proposed Public Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

(a) **Quality.**

The extension of public water mains throughout this Rural District has obviated to a large extent the consumption of water that is unfit, or which must be regarded as suspect. Almost every village well or spring is liable to contamination, and adequate protection at all times and under all conditions is impossible. These sources are gradually falling into disuse, as more and more houses are connected to the public mains.

The following is a report on the result of examination of water samples during 1958.

1	Lanreath	...	Public mains at 1, St. Marnarchs Road, Lanreath—Bacteriological Examination—Satisfactory. 30.5.58.
2	Pelynt	...	Public mains tap at Summer Lane, Pelynt. Bacteriological examination—satisfactory. 30.5.58
3	Liskeard	...	Public Mains tap. Kerkins Dairy, Dobwalls. Bacteriological examination—satisfactory. 30.5.58
4	Lanreath	...	Public mains tap. 1, Myrtle Cottage, Lanreath. Bacteriological examination—unsatisfactory. 31.5.58
5	Morval	...	Land Spring, Higher Trenode, Widegates. Bacteriological examination—some bacterial contamination due to organisms. 18.8.58. Also from storage tank near source
6	Morval	...	Tap over sink in cottage, Higher Trenode—some bacterial contamination due to excretal organisms. 15.8.58
7	Morval	...	Land Spring. Tap over sink. Bacteriological examination—some bacterial contamination due to excretal organisms. 15.8.58
8	Menheniot	...	Shallow well, Merrymeet Village. Bacteriological examination—satisfactory. 19.9.58

9	Linkinhorne	...	Spring--tap in kitchen, Brentholm Linkinhorne. Bacteriological examination—satisfactory. 19.9.58
10	Menheniot	...	Shallow well. Pump No. 1, Pengover village. Bacteriological examination—unsatisfactory. 20.9.58
11	Menheniot	...	Shallow well. Pump No. 2, Pengover Village. Bacteriological examination—some bacterial contamination due to excretal organisms 20.9.58
12	Menheniot	...	Shallow well. Pump No. 3, Pengover Village. Bacteriological examination—unsatisfactory. 20.9.58
13	Liskeard	...	Shallow well, Venton Veer, Liskeard. Bacteriological examination—unsatisfactory. 25.10.58
14	Liskeard	...	Dip well, Venton Veer, Liskeard. Bacteriological examination—unsatisfactory. 23.10.58
15	Liskeard	...	Collecting chamber, hydraulic ram, Higher Coombe Farm. Bacteriological examination satisfactory. 23.10.58
16	South Hill	...	Shallow well. Public pump, Golberdon Village. Bacteriological examination—slight bacterial contamination. 23-10-58
17	Lansallos	...	Tap at Canteen, Polperro C.P. School. Bacteriological examination—satisfactory. 22.11.58
18	Lanteglos	...	Tap at Polruan C.P. School. Bacteriological examination satisfactory. 21.11.58
19	Pelynt	...	Tap at Pelynt V.P. School. Bacteriological examination satisfactory. 21.11.58
20	Lanreath	...	Tap at Lanreath V.P. School. Bacteriological examination satisfactory. 21.11.58
21	Broad oak	..	Braddock V.P. School tap. Bacteriological examination satisfactory. 21.11.58
22	Menheniot	...	Tap at Merrymeet V.P. School. Bacteriological examination—satisfactory. 13.12.58
23	Menheniot	...	Tap at Menheniot V.P. School. Bacteriological examination—reasonably satisfactory. 13.12.58
24	St. Winnow	...	Land Spring at Burn Farm, St. Winnow. Bacteriological examination satisfactory—12.12.58. Also outlet in pump house at Burn Farm. 13.12.58
25	St. Neot	...	Land spring in field near Panters Bridge, St. Neot. Bacteriological examination—slight bacterial contamination. 6.12.58

b) **Quantity.**

The year 1958 was even less dry than 1957, and there was no shortage of water in any part of the District. Mains water was more than adequate in all parts of the area, and the works are designed to maintain this position when the whole of the area is covered.

(c) **Bacteriological Examination.**

Twenty-five samples of water were examined bacteriologically and the results are shown in section (a) of this report.

(d) **Plumbo Solvency**

No cases of lead poisoning were reported. The very extensive use of polythene pipes makes such cases even more rare, than in the past.

(e) **Contamination of Supplies.**

Most villages with wells and springs suffer contamination in varying degrees, from time to time. What action *can* be taken to provide a reasonable degree of protection is taken, and where the water is still not of good quality, householders are advised to boil it before use. The extension of the new mains is providing an adequate supply of wholesome water to householders who have never previously enjoyed it.



(f) **Parishes with One or More Villages having a Piped Water Supply.**

Parish	Population of Parish	Population supplied to houses	Population supplied by standpipes
Boconnoc ... ..	189	90	Nil
Broad oak ... ..	233	100	Nil
St. Cleer ... ..	1,616	825	37
Duloe ... ..	572	350	Nil
St. Ive ... ..	1,158	190	Nil
Lanreath ... ..	390	200	Nil
Lansallos ... ..	1,504	1,350	Nil
Lanteglos ... ..	1,234	1,190	20
Linkinhorne ... ..	1,228	300	120
Liskeard ... ..	978	580	Nil
St. Martin ... ..	427	222	Nil
Menheniot ... ..	1,073	304	20
Morval ... ..	539	80	Nil
St. Neot ... ..	932	176	100
Pelynt ... ..	486	250	Nil
St. Veep ... ..	334	160	20
St. Pinnock ... ..	339	90	Nil
South Hill ... ..	404	40	Nil
St. Winnow ... ..	365	80	Nil
St. Keyne ... ..	132	70	Nil

**Sewerage.**

**Seaton Sea Outfall.** The heavy winter seas moved a considerable quantity of sewer coverage and the concrete haunching was exposed in places. An inspection made, showed that there was no damage to the sewer, which continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year.

**St. Cleer. Treatment Works.** The decanting of sludge from the Dortmund Tank was carried out twice weekly and six lagoons were in regular and constant use. In spite of a very wet summer, the sludge was dried without any difficulty, and sold for agricultural and horticultural use. Additional premises were provided with bathrooms, water closets, wash-hand basins, sinks, etc., and the works dealt with the increased drainage without difficulty. The quality of the effluent discharging into a nearby stream was very good.

**Polruan Sea Outfall.** No special attention was required.

**Pelynt. Treatment Works.** This works, although not so modern as those at St. Cleer, continued to deal with the increased drainage from the village without any problem.

**Bodinnick.** These sewers were quite able to carry the increased volume of house drainage from this village.

**Dobwalls.** In July 1958, the Council accepted the tender of £20,863, from Messrs. Reed & Mallik, for the construction of a sewage treatment works, pumping stations, and the laying of sewers to serve the village of Dobwalls, and by the end of the year, 80% of the main sewers and branches had been laid. Pumping station No. 2 had been commenced, and excavations at the site of the treatment were in hand.

**Menheniot.** In December, an application was made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, for sanction to proceed with the Menheniot village sewer scheme, and it was expected that no objection would be made. Drawings had already been prepared, and approved, and it was thought that tenders would be invited early in 1959.

**Sewerage : Other Systems.** In many of the villages there is some form of sewerage system, but no treatment works for the effluent. These systems were, no doubt, originally intended as surface water drains, but have, over the past years, had sullage water and other drainage connected to them, with the result that they are established as public sewers.

Now that mains water is available, water closets and bathrooms are being provided and systems which were always unsatisfactory are now becoming foul, and of great concern to me. For how long owners of land adjoining these works can be persuaded to tolerate these conditions, it is difficult to say, but apart from this, they are a public health menace, which no authority can dispute.

There is a further problem where mains water is provided or about to be provided. The village of Common Moor is an example of an area where it is impossible for drainage effluent to soak into the soil. Sub-soil water is very close to the surface and it is impossible to construct septic tanks or soakaways. When mains water is introduced in 1959, I shudder to think of the quagmire that could be produced.

Pensilva, a large village with a population of some 1,000 people will be provided with water in 1959, and apart from a small unsatisfactory drainage system catering for one section of the village, there are no sewers in existence. Already we have evidence that we are to have a concentration of septic tanks which no Public Health Inspector can view with anything but concern.

These remarks are given, to indicate to the Council the extent of the problem which is before them, and which can only be solved by modern sewers and sewerage disposal works in every village and hamlet. It is something which cannot be shelved, and it is to be hoped that we shall be able to proceed with sewerage schemes at a sufficient rate to supersede the public health danger which could so easily occur.

**Public Conveniences.** The Public Conveniences in the district were well maintained during the year. At Lerryn and Seaton, the buildings were painted and re-decorated.

There was damage done to locks at Seaton and Polruan, and at Seaton one of the coin locks was removed. This was later recovered with the exception of the backplate, and it was possible to re-use it.

The particular problem at Polperro was the obstruction of the locks due to the use of bent and damaged coins. Generally, the conveniences were well maintained. In Polperro this was gratifying, as in previous years the arrangements made were not satisfactory. The Council's decision to employ a full time man whose duties would include this work has certainly been proved to be successful. There was evidence again this year of a need for a small Public Convenience at Bodinnick to cater for the Ferry queues, which in the summer months are extensive. It is to be hoped that in the coming year it will be possible for the Council to obtain a suitable site for this much needed building.

**Refuse Collection.** The same dumps continued in use during the year. There was a particular problem with fly infestations, and at Polperro dump a weekly treatment by spraying with insecticides had to be carried out.



A new 10 cu. yd. refuse collection vehicle was purchased and put in operation during the year. This replaced an existing vehicle which had reached a stage when it was becoming unreliable, and was causing considerable expenditure on maintenance.

The re-organisation of the refuse collection service which was carried out in 1957 has proved successful, and has run smoothly throughout the year.

**Litter.** A conference was held at the Guildhall, Looe, in February, to consider the introduction of an anti-litter pilot scheme for the areas between Sandplace and Polperro. The area concerned was in the administrative areas of Looe U.D.C. and Liskeard R.D.C. The two Councils agreed to co-operate in the scheme, and the County Council contributed to the cost incurred.

Litter receptacles were purchased and placed in lay-bys and on grass verges, just before the Whitsun week-end. It was arranged for them to be emptied regularly by the refuse lorries, and fortunately, this was possible with only a slight addition to the regular collection route. When emptying bins, the collectors cleaned up any litter around the area which had not been deposited in them.

Without any doubt, there was a considerable improvement in this area, which is used in the season by some thousands of visitors, and the Council's actions received favourable comments in the local press. The scheme clearly indicated that if sufficient litter bins were made available, the general public will co-operate and use them.

During the year, the Litter Act was passed. It is too early yet to know what success will be achieved by it, but I am doubtful if many private individuals will be prepared to offer evidence against an offender.

**Standard Dustbins.** During the year, 104 informal notices were served on occupiers of properties in the Parish of Lansallos, to provide standard dustbins. This was a continuation of the drive commenced in the previous year, in an endeavour to effect an improvement in the position, whereby refuse is placed for collection in various insanitary containers.

**Storage of Petroleum Spirit.** Forty-seven applications for licences to store petroleum spirit were granted on April 1st, 1958, to expire on March 31st, 1959. A complete inspection was made of each installation, and they were found to be in order. The Council accepted the Home Office Model Code, and each licensee was advised that before a licence would be issued in 1959, the requirements set out in that code would have to be complied with. In particular, attention was drawn to the following main items, Notices—"No Smoking—Switch off Engine," provision of sand and foam fire extinguishers, numbering of tanks and dip-sticks, and height of vent pipes. Many licence holders have already complied with the regulations in advance.

**Moveable Dwellings.** In spite of the wet summer, there was more camping in the district than ever before. The licenced sites were packed to over-capacity during the peak season, and the use of un-licenced fields increased.

Campers were also using waste land at the roadside and lay-bys. This use of land on which there are no sanitary facilities becomes a serious public health problem, when used regularly. The absence of any amenities and the irresponsible attitude of some people led to the existence of obvious nuisances, in the lay-bys, etc. I received complaints from campers by letter when they returned from their holidays, and some have visited the office. The complaints were mainly on the following factors :—

1. Extremely muddy conditions of the sites—and the mire around toilet blocks.
2. Inadequacy of toilet accomodation with particular reference to queues which occur in the early mornings.

The majority of recognised sites were licenced under the Public Health Act in pre-war days, and before the planning control that we know today. At that time, camping was carried on only in a small way, and the need for amenities could be satisfactorily met by the chemical closet. This no longer applies, and I have already had water closets provided in most of the licenced sites. On one site during the year, an additional toilet block was constructed. Arrangements were put in hand for improvements on other sites, before the 1959 season. Nevertheless, it is still extremely difficult to cater adequately for the peak fortnight.

The other problem is in connection with the field which is used for the permitted period for which neither Planning approval nor public health licence is required. The proprietors here mainly provide bucket closets which are, to say the least, very unpleasant. People from the towns often do not appreciate that an earth or chemical closet is still recognised by the Public Health Act.

Numerous routine visits were made to the Camping Sites, of which, 20 are licenced by the Council. One new Camping Site to cater for 10 caravans was licenced during the year. This was provided with water closets and mains water supply. In addition, 14 licences were in operation, authorising the erection and use of individual moveable dwellings.

**Rodent Control.** In May of the year under review a circular was received from the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, stating that the rat and mouse contract service operated by the Ministry's organisation, would be terminated during the next twelve months. Up to this stage, the treatment of farms, and other agricultural premises in this area was carried out by the Ministry's Pest Officers. In a rural area of this nature, farms are a major source of rat infestation, and unless this service is continued, all the good work accomplished over the past years would quickly be lost. Rats would penetrate into the villages and the built up areas. Considering these factors, the Council decided to operate the service which was previously undertaken by the Ministry, and resolved as follows :

1. To make a charge for farms and other industrial premises on the basis of the apportioned estimated cost of the operators wages, and travelling, plus materials used and a 15% overall addition to cover expenses of administration and supervision.
2. To notify farmers of the position when their contracts with the Ministry terminate.

Accordingly I contacted 60 farmers and advised them of the position. It is to be hoped that farmers generally will avail themselves of the Council's service, as it is only by their co-operation that it can be continued on an economic basis.

I have already had much assistance from the Ministry Pest Officers in propagating this service which can be offered, and by the end of the year, 31 farmers decided to partake.

Treatment of private houses has continued throughout the year, and regular deratisation of the Council's refuse dumps was carried out.



The continuance of survey is essential and when inspecting food premises, a particular check is made for the presence of rodent infestations. It is impossible to stress too strongly the importance of rodent control for in addition to wasting food, rats play an important part in the spread of the food poisoning group of infections.

**Factory Acts, 1937—1948.** There has been little change in the position regarding the Registration of Factories in this rural district. The total number on the register was 120, a reduction of two since 1957.

Regular inspections of these premises were made from time to time and in eight cases, there was found to be insufficient sanitary accommodation. Seven were remedied by informal action. Other minor matters were dealt with and were chiefly in connection with the need for improvement in the condition of cleanliness. One certificate of "Sufficient Means of Fire Escape Provided" was issued during the year.

## Food.

**1. Meat Inspection.** The majority of meat for consumption in the rural district was obtained from the abattoir at Liskeard which is operated by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation. The abattoir is situated in the Borough of Liskeard, and the meat inspection is carried out by the Borough Public Health Inspector.

A very limited amount of slaughtering was carried out during the year at one of the licensed slaughterhouses at Lerryn. Nine pigs and five sheep were slaughtered, all of which were inspected. It was not necessary to condemn any carcase or offal.

Routine visits were made to the 15 butchers shops from time to time, and on each occasion meat in the shop was inspected.

**2. Food Premises.** The data regarding the number of the various food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:—

### (i) Food Premises

Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	21
Hotels and Guest Houses	...	...	..	26
School Canteens	...	...	...	18
Public Houses	...	...	...	20
Clubs	...	...	...	2
General Grocer Shops	..	...	...	64
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	15
Bake Houses	...	...	...	2
Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	3
Greengrocers	...	...	...	4

(ii) **Registered Food Premises**(a) **Section 15, Food & Drugs Act, 1955**

Sale of Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	80
Sale of Other Food Preparations ..	...	...	...	7

(b) **Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949-54**

Number of Dairies Registered	...	...	...	11
Number of Registrations for Distributor of Milk	...	...	...	28

**3. Number of Inspections of Registered Food Premises**

Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	54
Other Food Preparations	...	...	...	...	25
Dairies	...	...	...	...	20

During the year, four applications were received for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream. Inspections were made of the premises concerned, and the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, and Regulations, were given to the applicants. In each case, these were complied with and registration granted.

Three applications were received for registration of premises as dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulation, 1949. The necessary structural work to effect compliance with the regulations was carried out under my supervision, and in each case, the registration was granted.

Since 1955, only designated milk has been sold in the district, following the coming into operation of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order. No special difficulty has been experienced in the administration of this Order.

The bulk of the milk sold for consumption in the district is obtained from the factory of Messrs. Dawes Creameries, (Saltash) Ltd., which is under the control of the Cornwall County Council and the Saltash Borough Council.

The following licences to use a special designation in relation to milk sold in the district were granted by the Council during the year :

Dealer Licences	—Pasteurised	...	...	23
	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	14
	Sterilised	..	...	1
Supplementary Licences	—Pasteurised	...	...	4
	Tuberculin Tested	...	...	3

**Condemned Food.** The disposal of condemned food is carried out by burying at the Council's refuse dump. Tinned foods are first punctured, and all food is treated with a solution of fluorescein before burying.



**Examination of Food.** Routine visits were made to various food premises and general examinations made of food exposed for sale. The following were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

14 tins of fruit

1 tin of meat

**Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957** During the year, the Council received delegated powers from the Cornwall County Council for the administration of Article 5 of the above Order. A survey of the district has been made in an endeavour to locate persons who will have to be licenced to operate plant for boiling of waste foods. From information obtained, it would appear that three persons would require a licence and these will be dealt with early in 1959.

**Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947-52.** There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district, but by the end of 1958 there were 80 premises from which ice cream was sold to the general public. During the year, four new premises were registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. In each case the necessary facilities were provided prior to registration being granted.

36 samples of ice cream were taken for examination by the methylene blue test, and the results were as follows:—

Grade (i)	...	...	...	26
Grade (ii)	...	...	...	4
Grade (iii)	...	...	...	4
Grade (iv)	...	...	...	2

The six samples which were placed in graded (iii) and (iv) were taken in one batch from the village of Polperro. Investigations were made, and it was found that on the day prior to sampling, there had been an electrical power cut in the village, with the result that the conservators were out of action for some considerable time. Undoubtedly this had some bearing on the low grading of the samples.

One of the noticeable features during the year was the change over from the sale of pre-packed to loose ice cream. Where this change has taken place, the vendors were told of the necessity of sterilising servers, and were recommended to keep them immersed in a sterilising fluid, and this recommendation was adopted in all cases.

**Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.** In administering the regulations, I have been particularly active in enforcing the requirements of washing facilities in food premises, to which mains water has been made available. During the year, the following requirements have been effected.

**Grocers Shops.** One food store reconditioned, including plastering walls and provision of insulated ceiling to remedy condensation and complete redecoration carried out.

One shop provided with ventilated food store.

Sinks with hot and cold water laid on have been provided at seven grocers shops and general stores.

**Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens.** One restaurant provided with sink and hot and cold water laid on for washing equipment and with a separate wash-hand basin.

One Fish & Chip Cafe provided with sink and hot and cold water in the food preparing room, and the room generally reconditioned.

One Hotel kitchen provided with wash-hand basin with hot and cold water laid on.

**Licenced Premises.** Sink with hot and cold water laid on provided in bar of one premises for glass washing. In another similar premises an electric immersion heater provided to augment existing hot water system.

**Greengrocers Shop.** Sink with cold water provided in one premises.

**School Canteens.** Two new kitchens were erected with all necessary facilities. Constant hot water supply provided to existing sinks in one premises. Wash-basin, new hot water system, clothes locker and extractor vent provided in one premises.

Routine visits were made to all food premises in the district and in some cases verbal instructions had to be given to the proprietors to effect certain improvements. These were acted upon, and there is a general spirit of co-operation amongst the traders.

Polperro has to receive particular attention during the season, where the cafes, and restaurants cater for a large influx of visitors. The village receives large numbers of tourists and there is for this reason, a demand for catering for non-residents, and consequently a proportionately large number of restaurants.

I would like to stress the importance of routine visits which are so essential in maintaining a high standard of hygiene. Often outwardly, nothing appears to have been achieved, but its effect can be measured by the absence of outbreaks of food poisoning. Only by constant visits and informal talks to food handlers can this success be maintained. No particular educational activity was carried out during the year.

Certificates of exemption were issued in respect of washing facilities at a cafe and two grocers shops. In these cases, mains water or sewerage is in process of being provided in the villages where the premises are situated, and these certificates will be effective until these services are available. No prosecutions were made under the Regulations.

**Housing.** 1. Due to the high "rate of borrowing" and the withdrawal of the Government subsidy for the first time in twelve years not one Council House was erected. In anticipation of lower interest rates and to deal with the Council's



slum clearance, sites were acquired at St. Cleer, St. Neot, Lanreath, Menheniot and Higher Tremar, in addition to those already owned by the Council at Polperro and Lerryn. It is expected to proceed with the erection of some 23 houses on these sites during 1959.

**2. Reconditioning and Modernising of Existing Houses.** During 1958 the operation of the Improvement Grant Scheme was suspended from January to October, but during the last quarter, 14 new applications were received which were all sanctioned. The approved expenditure amounted to £10,647 and grants totalling £6 998 were paid during the year. 26 improvement grant schemes were completed, some of which had been approved in the previous year. As the Act requires, each of these premises was provided with all modern amenities including the laying on of hot and cold water, provision of bathrooms, water closets, drains, larders, modern cookers, etc., and in many instances the work involved the raising of walls, enlarging of windows, the remedying of rising dampness, and other inherent structural defects.

The Improvement Grant Scheme is of particular value to districts such as this and it is hoped that increased advantage will be taken of the financial assistance offered. Generally in the district, houses and cottages are of sound stone construction but lacking in amenities. As water mains are now being extended to hamlets and villages in the northern part of the area, it is expected that owners will carry out improvements with, and without, financial assistance.

In addition to the improvements under grant, twelve premises in the district had major schemes of reconditioning carried out at the owners expense. By this means, the premises were kept in occupation which otherwise would have been lost as units of accommodation.

**Slum Clearance.** From 1955 up to the end of 1958 I have reported to the Council on 85 properties. Undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted during the year in respect of 18 houses. One dwelling was demolished in pursuance of demolition order, and six dwellings included in clearance areas were demolished. In addition, one dwelling was demolished voluntarily by the owners, without the necessity of making a demolition order.

Demolition was also effectively carried out voluntarily in respect of nine houses which were included in a clearance area. A clearance order was not made in this case, as the ownership of land was vested in a body who were exempted from the provisions of the Housing Act.

Unfortunately, the Council was unable to proceed with the building of Council Houses due to the increased loan charges, and this has caused delay in dealing with the Slum Clearance programme.

However it has been possible to deal with many of the houses when the tenants found their own alternative accommodation.

**Housing Management.** As was mentioned earlier in this report, no new Council Houses were erected during 1958, the number remaining at 536.

During the year, 37 houses were inspected on change of tenancy and in addition numerous visits were made to individual houses in connection with repairs and in certain cases, cleanliness. One house purchased in Polruan was modernised with the aid of an Improvement Grant. The work included the provision of bathroom, approved cooking appliance, hot water system, and entrance path.

Improvements were carried out to eight houses at Pool Hall, Menheniot. As these were erected without subsidy, improvement grants were obtained. The improvements consisted of the provision of an approved cooking appliance and hot water system, wash-hand basins, fuel bunkers, and concrete pavings.

The Council has owned for some time, two cottages at St. Ive, which, although structurally sound, were sub-standard. These were modernised during the year, again with the aid of an improvement grant. The work included the erection of additions to provide bathrooms, larders, and scullerys and in addition, extensive reconditioning was carried out to the structure, including raising the ceiling levels, providing damp-proofed floors, and impervious linings to remedy rising dampness. Piped water supply and drainage were installed. The scheme was an example of modernising the type of cottage of which there are large numbers in this area.

Many of the older houses were constructed with solid concrete block walls. There is a general problem with this type of construction, in preventing penetrating dampness in exposed positions. In order to remedy extensive dampness, the walls on the rear elevation of two houses at Pelynt had to be slate hung, this being the only effective solution.

A new drainage system, comprising septic tank and filter was provided at four houses at Killigarth, Polperro, separate provision being made for the disposal of roof water. A portion of a large bedroom in each house was converted into a bathroom with water closets, and hot water systems with electric immersion heaters were installed.

During the year, the work was put in hand to provide piped water to 131 houses from the new mains.

A survey was made of the cooking appliances in the pre-war houses. The type of cooker originally installed in these houses were cast iron Cornish Ranges. Many of these have been used over 30 years, and apart from becoming obsolete, they are in the main, worn out. The replacement of these appliances is an expensive item, and the matter has been of some concern to the Council. Nevertheless, some positive action will have to be taken in the not too distant future.

Regular attention was paid to the maintenance of the sewage disposal plants on the various Housing Estates.

External painting of houses is carried out once every four years. To achieve this, the houses are divided roughly into four sections, and during the year, tenders were accepted in respect of 122 houses. Unfortunately the inclement weather which was experienced made it very difficult to execute painting, and at the end of the year, several contracts were outstanding.



**Drainage of Private Premises.** During the year, 23 premises were provided with house drains connected to the Council's sewers. In addition 46 premises were provided with drainage to septic tanks. This involved the examination and testing of 8,294 feet of drains.

Numerous enquiries are being made for advice on the installation of septic tanks. Now that distances are not stipulated in the Building Byelaws it is possible to consider each case on its merits. In many parts of the district there is clay sub-soil and it is unlikely that soakaways will function efficiently for very long periods.

Two private firms operate a service of emptying septic tanks and cesspits in the district, and both do this efficiently and economically. The problem is the disposal of this septic sludge. It cannot be deposited into a sewerage system with treatment works and the use of sea-outfalls is impracticable. Farmers are not anxious to have it spread over land, and in any case, its disposal on grass land is not to be encouraged as the spread of *cystercercus bovis* to cattle is possible. It is undoubtably a factor to which further thought will have to be given.

## APPENDIX 1.

## Principal Causes of Death—All Ages—1958

Disease	St Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Heart disease ...	73	60	38	20	53	23	267
Cancer (all sites)	43	19	19	10	15	7	113
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ("stroke") ..	29	26	15	12	17	1	100
Respiratory disease	11	19	5	6	7	6	54
Circulatory disease	15	7	2	2	5	2	33
Accidents ..	5	4	6	—	2	1	18*
Genito-urinary disease ...	5	3	2	1	1	1	13
Diabetes ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	6
Tuberculosis ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	6
Suicide ...	—	1	2	—	—	—	3

\*Includes 4 deaths in motor vehicle accidents.

## APPENDIX 2.

## Types of Heart Disease and Cancer Causing Death—1958

Type of Disease	St. St. Germans R.D.	Liskeard R.D.	Saltash M.B.	Torpoint U.D.	Liskeard M.B.	Looe U.D.	Health Area No. 7
Coronary disease, angina ...	24	19	14	9	11	14	91
Hypertension with Heart disease	5	4	3	2	3	—	17
Other heart disease	44	37	21	9	39	9	159
Cancer of lung and bronchus ...	9	2	7	2	1	1	22
Cancer of stomach	9	1	3	1	3	—	17
Cancer of breast ...	5	1	1	1	1	—	9
Cancer of uterus ...	3	—	1	—	1	1	6
Other cancers	17	15	7	6	9	5	59



## APPENDIX 3.

## Deaths by Age Groups—1958

District	0-5 years	5-15 years	15-45 years	45-65 years	65-75 years	75 years & over	All Ages
St. Germans R.D. ...	4	2	6	45	60	93	210
Liskeard R.D. ...	6	1	7	31	39	81	165
Saltash M.B. ...	2	1	3	23	23	49	101
Torpoint U.D. ...	2	1	1	7	23	23	57
Liskeard M.B. ...	2	—	4	18	32	51	107
Looe U.D. ...	1	—	—	8	16	19	44
Health Area No. 7 ...	17	5	21	132	193	316	684

## APPENDIX 4.

## Average Age at Death—1958

District	Males	Females
St. Germans R.D. ..	68	71
Liskeard R.D. ...	68	73
Saltash M.B. ...	70	70
Torpoint U.D. ...	64	73
Liskeard M.B. ...	70	73
Looe U.D. ...	69	72
Health Area No. 7 ...	68	72

## APPENDIX 5. TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Deaths in Health Area No. 7—1958

Age Group	New Cases		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 year	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	1	—	—	—
5-15 years	3	2	—	—
15-45 years	8	8	—	1
45-65 years	3	—	3	1
65 years and over	—	2	1	—
Totals ...	15	12	4	2

	Males	Females	Total
New case rate per 1,000 of population ... ..	0.29	0.23	0.53
Mortality rate per 1,000 of population ... ..	0.08	0.04	0.12

**Case Rates and Mortality Rates per 1,000 of Population  
in the Six County Districts in Health Area No. 7—1958**

District	All known Cases		Deaths
	New Cases	at 31.12.58.	
St. Germans R.D. ... ..	0.45	6.25	0.19
Liskeard R.D. ... ..	0.36	4.97	0.22
Saltash M.B. ... ..	0.67	7.81	—
Torpoint U.D. ... ..	0.81	8.29	—
Liskeard M.B. ... ..	0.93	7.18	—
Looe U.D. ... ..	0.27	6.37	—
Health Area No. 7 ... ..	0.53	6.46	0.12
Cornwall County ... ..	0.65	7.36	0.13

**APPENDIX 6.**

**Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus  
Deaths by Age Groups and Sexes—1958**

Age Group	Males	Females
15-45 ... ..	1	—
45-65 ... ..	8	5
65-75 ... ..	4	2
75 and over ... ..	2	—
All Ages ..	15	7

**Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus  
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population—1958**

	Males	Females	Total
Health Area No. 7 ...	0.293	0.137	0.430
Cornwall County ...	0.218	0.065	0.283
England and Wales ...	0.378	0.062	0.440





